

SPECIAL PRODUCTS AND SPECIMENS

5046

(May 1988)

The sale procedures for Christmas trees, surplus logs, and what might be termed "specimen" products from state property are somewhat different from the conventional timber sale. This section of instructions is devoted to such special products.

CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

5046.1

(May 1988)

Christmas tree stumpage or cut trees may be sold from state forests in accordance with the approved management plan.

Christmas trees are a secondary forest product on all areas not specifically set up as Christmas tree management areas. They should be harvested in overstocked stands or groups when thinnings will improve conditions for the production of the primary product, which is usually sawlogs.

Highgrading the choicest trees are not desirable because this type of tree usually is the future crop tree for growing sawtimber. Thinnings which accelerate the growth of the residual stand or release more desirable species, yet still maintain a crown canopy to prevent invasion by brush, should be the goal in selecting Christmas trees for cutting. The sale of Christmas trees should not be encouraged to the extent that silvicultural requirements are jeopardized.

The stump height will vary with Christmas trees, but should be below the lowest living branch on areas being managed primarily as timber croplands. Trees may be long-butted in the field after cutting, if necessary, to make suitable Christmas trees.

Prices should be on a lineal-foot basis, measured to the nearest foot. All measurements should include the terminal leader. An additional amount per tree should be charged for cutting and roadside piling when this service is rendered by the state.

Sales should be of such a size that they will draw competitive bidding and bring the highest prices consistent with the cost of sale administration. Christmas tree stumpage sales are handled like any other timber sale, depending upon the amount of value involved. In the case of Class III sales, a proposed specialized Christmas tree sale agreement must be submitted in place of the timber sale agreement ([see Section 5045](#)).

LOG SALES

5046.2

(May 1988)

The department is not to engage in the commercial harvesting and manufacturing of forest products from state forests (PRC §4651).

Work projects on state forests performed by conservation camp crews, such as hazard reduction, sanitation, salvage, road construction, and experimental work, occasionally yield small quantities of logs as a by-product of the operation. Under such conditions, sales of logs of \$10,000 or less are handled as a Class I sale ([see Section 5043](#)). Sales of over

\$10,000 are handled like any other competitive sale of surplus state property after prior approval has been obtained from the Director. To expedite such sales and reduce administrative costs whenever possible, logs should be scaled prior to being decked and sold on a lump sum basis.

SPECIAL SPECIMENS

5046.3

(May 1988)

Requests often are directed to the department for samples of timber or other natural products of merchantable value available on property under department control. A cross-section of a large redwood tree is an example.

These requests may come from foreign governments, state agencies, educational institutions, or various associations, groups, or persons. Only excess forest specimens are to be made available in fulfilling any request, and these will be subject to the following regulations:

- The State will receive compensation for any forest materials of merchantable value whenever ownership changes or is transferred to another. Outright gifts without a proper consideration will not be made, since this is contrary to the law in respect to state goods and services.
- Transfer without charge legally may be made to California State agencies. Requests received from this source should be routed to the Director, with the region chief's recommendations. The Director will determine the action to be taken and which agency will bear the costs of handling, crating, shipping, etc., if the requested transfer is approved.
- Forest specimens may be provided to governmental agencies (other than California state agencies) and to foreign governments without cash payment when, in the opinion of the Director, the State of California will receive an exchange value equal to or exceeding the merchantable value of the specimen. Incidental costs in making the specimen available, such as handling, crating, shipping, etc., normally will be paid by the receiving government or agency.

PRIVATE PERSONS AND GROUPS

5046.3.1

(May 1988)

Specimens having value for their rarity, beauty, or physical peculiarity to the extent that they are deemed worthy of preservation for public display or scientific study should not be transferred by sale into private hands.

Specimens are to be sold to private persons or groups in the manner prescribed by the Director for the sale of forest materials.

Requests received from this source must be transmitted to the Director for approval and accompanied by the recommendation of the region chief for the location in which the material is situated.

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